GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4911
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2003
SOLAR ENERGY
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to give preference to solar energy as compared to hydro and thermal power;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any studies have been conducted by the Government to tap more power from other resources except thermal, hydro and solar energy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a) & (b): Government is promoting all indigenous energy resources, conventional like hydro and thermal as well as non-conventional including solar, depending upon techno-economic feasibility/ viability with the aim of making them complementary to each other. However, solar energy is still not competitive to conventional energy sources for large-scale power generation. Hence, it is being promoted in areas where it is useful and viable particularly in the remote and hilly areas. A total of around 2,56,673 home lighting systems, 47,969 street lights, 5,09,894 solar lanterns, 5591 water pumps, 7,00,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 5,30,500 solar cookers and 3.14 MW capacity of power plants have been installed and 800 villages electrified through solar energy till 31.03.2003. It is proposed to install another 53,000 home lighting systems, 600 solar generators, 1600 water pumps, 55,000 sq. meters of collector area for water heating, 35,000 solar cookers and 1.2 MW capacity of power plants including street lights during the current year. In addition 850 villages are proposed to be electrified through solar energy.

(c) & (d) : The other sources of non-conventional energy include wind, small hydro, biomass, urban & industrial wastes, geo-thermal and ocean energy. Studies and estimates prepared by the Ministry and various other institutions have revealed that there is a potential for generating 45,000 MW from wind, 15,000 MW from small-hydro, 19,500 MW frombiomass, 2,500 MW from urban & industrial wastes, 10,000 MW from geo-thermal and around 15,000 MW from ocean tides in the country.